

MINUTES
UTAH SOIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION (USCC) MEETING

November 6, 2002
Provo, Utah

ATTENDANCE

Chairman (Standing Ex-officio):

Cary G. Peterson, *Commissioner, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food*

Appointed Soil Conservation District (SCD)

Supervisor Members:

Larry Johnson, *Zone 1*
Dee Waldron, *Zone 2*
Richard L. Saunders, *Zone 3*
Stanley Wood, *Zone 4*
Ralph Staheli, *Zone 5*
Willard "Bill" Rasmussen, *Zone 6*
Lyle Bryner, *Zone 7*

Standing Ex-Officio Members:

Randy Greenhalgh, *President, Utah Association of Conservation Districts (UACD)*
Sherman Hoskins, *Deputy Director, Utah Dept. Natural Resources*
Dr. Phillip Rasmussen, *UT State University Extension (USU)*
Mike Reichert *for Don Ostler, Water Quality Division, Utah Department of Environmental Quality*

Appointed Alternate SCD Supervisor Members:

Paul Leishman, *Zone 1*
Hylton Haueter, *Zone 3*
Chad Anderson, *Zone 4*
Allen Henrie, *Zone 5*
Edward Bench Jr, *Zone 6*
Robert Berry, *Zone 7*

Conservation Partners Representatives:

Phillip "Skip" Nelson, *State Conservationist, National Resource Conservation Service-Utah (NRCS-UT), USDA*
Gordon Younker, *Executive Vice President UACD*
A. J. Martinez, *Bureau of Land Management, USDI*
Janice Richardson, *Water Management Coordinator, BOR, USDI*

**Conservation Partners Representatives
(Continued):**

Penny Trinca, *Zone 1 Coordinator, UACD*
Ken Mills, *Zone 2 Coordinator, UACD*
William "Bill" Rigby, *Southwest Region Exec. Board Member, NACD*
Boyd Critchfield, *State Director USDA FSA*
Joe Hill, *Chair, State Committee USDA FSA*
Ray Loveless, *Zone 3 Coordinator, UACD*
David Pace, *Zone 4 Coordinator, UACD*
Tyce Palmer, *Zone 5 Coordinator, UACD*
Hal Lemon, *Zone 7 Coordinator, UACD*
Kevin Creer, *Bridging-the-Headgate Specialist, UACD*
Howard Johnson, *Chair, Utah Grazing Network*

**Commission Staff Support from the Utah
Department of Agriculture and Food:**

K. N. "Jake" Jacobson, *USCC Admin. Officer, M&CD*
Sherie Edginton, *USCC Secretary, M&CD*
Randy Parker, *Director of Marketing and Conservation*
Koy Page, *Ag Loan Administrator, Agricultural Loans Section, M&CD*
Dick Sandberg, *Loan Specialist, Agricultural Loans Section, M&CD*
George Hopkin, *Chief Environmental Quality*

Guests:

Dr. Fee Busby, *USU College of Natural Resources*
Bill Hopkin, *Utah Grazing Network, GLCI*
Gary Gerth, *Utah Grazing Network, GLCI*
Wayne Greehalgh, *UACD*
Michael Gosseff, *USU*

SUMMARY OF COMMISSION ACTIONS

1. The Minutes of the September 23, 2002 USCC meeting approved. Page 2
2. Timothy Vetere ARDL application presentation & approval. Page 3
3. David M Burton ARDL application presentation & approval. Page 4

4. The Continuation of Zone Activity Reports approved Page 5
5. The Continuation of the Current TA Grant Policy approved. Page 5
6. The 2003 USCC Meeting Schedule approved. Page 5
7. The SERA Out-of State Authorization of Supervisors attending the NACD National Convention in Orlando Florida. Page 6

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Peterson called the meeting to order at 1:10 P.M. He encouraged the attendees to attend the UACD conference starting Thursday morning. He reported on the Utah Partners for Conservation & Development Directors Council meeting prior to the USCC meeting. Therein was a report on the Utah drought conditions and how we could learn from this drought to prepare a strategy for the next drought cycle. He commented on the budget hearing at the Governors office for FY2004. There will be no budget increases; hopefully revenue levels will remain the same as this fiscal year.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Draft minutes of the September 23, 2002 USCC meeting were distributed in advance with this meeting notice either by U.S. Mail or email. Chairman Peterson asked for action on these minutes. **The motion was made by Mr. Richard Saunders to approve the September 2002 meeting minutes as distributed. Seconded by Mr. Bill Rasmussen. It passed by unanimous voice vote.**

ISSUE UPDATE: *Utah Water Yield Enhancement with Watershed Vegetative Management*

THE SCIENCE OF WATER YIELD ENHANCEMENT FROM JUNIPER REMOVAL

Dr. Fee Busby, Dean of the USU College of Natural Resources, reported the benefits of chaining Juniper stands to change it into herbaceous forage, improving the forage base for livestock and wildlife. He distributed several document copies, a sample of which are available at the USCC office. He indicated that there are downsides to chaining depending on one's perspective. One downside is carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is much greater now than any time in recorded history. Juniper seems to thrive on elevated carbon dioxide environments, which might explain why juniper has spread to areas it hasn't been before. The results from chaining will be different from one area to the next. Precipitation is the most fundamental factor for increasing stream flow and run off typically accounts for less 10% of the yearly water budget. The problems with trying to get more water for run-off is that there isn't very much water to begin with in Utah. If forage is to replace juniper the most powerful factor is sunlight, and the evaporation potential from plants. It would be preferable that the evaporation be from herbaceous forage that can be grazed instead of juniper. When juniper is chained the concern is erosion, so there must be minimal soil disturbance to save existing topsoil.

In Utah's Clover Creek area (Tooele County) the juniper was chained in the nineteen-seventies in the lower elevations and in the nineteen-eighties there was a fire in the higher elevations. With historical photographs we are able to see where springs and seeps had appeared after the fire. So it was decided that if higher vegetation was removed the more water moved down the slope forming meadows and streams. Another important factor is the geology of the area. In Clover Creek they found the water flow was through unconsolidated slide material on top of impermeable bedrock, which means the water soaked in until it hit clay where it flowed out. If it had been deep soils or unconsolidated bedrock instead of impermeable bedrock it would have soaked down deeper to the ground water. Another key point is that it is an east-facing slope, which is much cooler than a south-facing slope. This protects the snow from melting faster and there is better water storage.

In the Grouse Creek area, students mapped the area to show juniper forests and which way the mountains sloped. This will help identify the best areas to chain for better drainage. If one chains the north and northeast slopes there would be a better potential for a higher drainage output.

Dr. Mike Gosseff, new watershed scientist for USU, reported the difference between deep ground and shallow ground watershed. Deep ground water has longer than a year residence time; shallow groundwater has less than a year residence time. Water from the snow melt infiltrates groundwater and is used within a few months.

The problem is how to manipulate the shallow ground water to increase runoff. By removing the high water demand of the juniper, by chaining, and planting native grasses that are usable for grazing, the water runoff will increase through seeps and streams.

UTAH GRAZINGLAND NETWORK (UGN) SPONSORED UTAH CORE4 PILOT INITIATIVE AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW UGN EMPLOYEE.

Mr. Howard Johnson, Chair of UGN introduced the new Core4 Initiative, which is a national soil and conservation marketing campaign. It is supported by 70 organizations of conservation businesses, association, publicly funded organizations and universities. Core4 stands for better soil, cleaner water, greater profits and brighter future.

Mr. Gary Gerth, new employee of UGN, introduced himself. He came to Utah from Butte Montana. He is a native of South Dakota where his family still has a livestock and grain operation. He graduated from South Dakota State University with a degree in rangeland management. He's worked for the US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, which he retired from recently.

Mr. Bill Hopkin, Vice Chair UGN, stressed that UGN has an obligation to help landowners know what resources and programs are available to them to put conservation resources on the ground. With Gary and the NRCS range conservationist and USU they can identify who needs help with improving their grazing lands. These organizations then need to help the landowners find the funding for projects. He introduced a draft of the Core4 campaign plan summary.

AGRICULTURE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT LOAN (ARDL) PROGRAM

LOAN STATUS, REPAYMENT REPORT & ZONE ALLOCATION ADJUSTMENTS UPDATE

Mr. Richard Sandberg gave the ARDL program funds report. The total Legislative appropriation to date is approximately \$27million. The total number of loans is 867 totaling \$23,414,962. At the end of October there were 6 loans past due totaling \$108,411. Total cash on hand to fund new loans is \$3,452,186. There is about \$4 million in new loan applications.

Mr. Richard Sandberg reported that \$3,463.91 was charged off on loan #GL 2041 on October 1, 2002. The loss was the result of a deficiency balance remaining after sale of a repossessed tractor. The loan date was April 14, 1999 for the amount of \$12,408, for the purpose of financing part of a manure management facility. The terms were a five-year contract, with an annual payment of \$2,709, fully amortized. The security was UCC filing on a 1981 Case tractor, which was sold for the USCC by a local implement dealer.

Mr. Richard Sandberg presented two loans for the Commission's consideration. The first is for Timothy and Lurey Vetere of Green River. The new loan amount is \$424,194, which will be combined with an existing loan of \$24,096 totaling \$448,290. The terms are fully amortized ten-year loan with equal annual principal and interest payments of \$49,728 beginning the fall of 2003. The purpose for the loan is to finance 3 pivot sprinkler systems covering 380 acres, and three pumps. This is the second phase of a large project begun several years ago. The entire project will comprise of 11 pivots on 1,328 acres. The security is first trust deed with subordination's from FSA and an individual lender on 787 acres, which represent the private land portion of the project. FSA expects to help with a \$100,00 disaster loan next year because of losses that occurred this year with the melon crop due to untimely rain and wind last spring. While the Vetere's level of debt is high, they have proven that they can manage it and make progress from year to year. **A motion was made to approve this loan application by Mr. Lyle Bryner; Seconded by Mr. Stanley Wood. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

The second loan application is for David M. and Deia Burton of Parowan. The loan amount is \$52,000 combined with 2 previous loans for \$155,996 and \$13,454 totaling \$221,450 for 12 years. The purpose for the

loan is to finance a complete irrigation upgrade on the farm. The project includes 2 pivot sprinkling systems and an arrangement using existing wheelines to irrigate the corners and the remaining farm, and also to drill a new well. Real estate will be provided by subordination from collateral held by State Bank of Southern Utah or other real estate will be provided to meet the 70% loan to value requirements. The annual payment will be made from sale of sheep, cattle or crops. The applicants have enjoyed a strong net worth and have reflected a profitable operation over the past several years. **A motion was made by Mr. Ralph Staheli to approve this loan application; Seconded by Mr. Robert Barry took over for Mr. Lyle Bryner when he needed to leave the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

Mr. Koy Page reported adjustments to Zone allocations. \$200,000 was moved from Zone 1 to Zone 7 and \$100,000 was moved from Zone 5 to Zone 6.

CONSERVATION PARTNER'S UPDATE

UTAH PARTNERS FOR CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Mr. Jake Jacobson reported the Directors Council of the Utah Partners for Conservation and Development (UPC&D), who met earlier today, changed leadership of the Council. Out going chair is Bruce Barrett of the Bureau of Reclamation and in coming is Sally Wisely of Bureau of Land Management.

SCD/ZONE 1

Mr. Larry Johnson handed out a report on the accomplishment made in Zone 1 during 2001-2002.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (UACD)

Mr. Randy Greenhalgh encouraged USCC meeting attendees to attend the UACD conference to follow the next two days. Senator Robert Bennett will be speaking on the Federal Farm Bill funding as well as the national elections, and there will be breakout sessions on different topics including the Farm Bill.

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Mr. Randy Parker indicated that there should be a report on the findings of the UPC&D Drought Action Team in 60 to 90 days. In August Governor Leavitt announced several trade missions that capitalize the Utah Brand images that was generated by the 2002 Winter Olympics. In October UDAF sponsored participation in the Paris Food Show. There were 6 companies that sent products to the show. The 3 companies that went projected 12-month sales to be \$1,150,000 from the show. In January there is a Utah trade mission to Mexico. In April another trade mission will go to Asia. There is 3 upcoming food shows in Tokyo, Korea and Hong Kong. Since the Olympics there is a trade commission visiting from China every 3 to 4 weeks. They have been very interested in irrigation practices and native forage. UDAF is investigating the possibility of a 3-day symposium on Utah agriculture production.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (NACD)

Mr. Bill Rigby reported that there are \$5.8 billion dollar conservation programs authorization included with the 2002 Federal Farm Bill, which could be spent over the next 6 years. NACD and conservation officials across the nation were very instrumental in the passage of the Farm Bill. There will be a 75% cost share on EQIP, the program is divided with 60% going to livestock related land and water practices and 40% going to plant land practices. The authorized Farm Bill funding is 1/2 of 1% of the total Federal budget. The Farm Bill cost each U.S. Citizen \$48.00 per year, or 13 cents per day or 4.5 cents per meal. Financial assistance for Ag producers in the United States averages \$49.00 per acre, compared to the European Union at \$309.00 per acre and Japan at \$4000.00 per acre. There is a \$80 million dollar short fall to NRCS Technical Assistance (TA) to implement the conservation provision of the Farm Bill. There is a lawsuit pending with the OMB to show the need for more TA funding.

USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA)

Mr. Joe Hill reported the drought assistance program was announced in September, and Utah agricultural producers started signing up the first of October. Nearly \$10 million dollars have been paid out, with 2/3

remaining. \$4 million dollars has been paid to dairy farmers. There is a \$40,000 maximum payment for assistance per producer.

Mr. Boyd Critchfield answered a question Commission Peterson relayed from a Millard County Commissioner. Some dairy owners were denied compensation because of a gross income of \$2.5 million. This has been changed in the new Farm Bill.

USDI BUREAU OF RECLAMATION (BOR)

Ms. Janice Richardson reported that Lloyd Austin has retire from the Utah Division of Water Resources, Mr. Eric Millis has taken his place. Mr. Millis will represent the Division on Utah's Bridging-the-Headgate partnership. The BOR Water Conservation Field Service Program is now advertising for grant proposals. The grants can be a maximum payment \$25,000 for water conservation efforts. There in now available a Comprehensive Guide to Water Quality and Piped Irrigation video.

Mr. Kevin Creer told of three workshops being offered to Utah irrigators on water measuring.

TIMELY OR URGENT ITEMS FROM OTHER PARTNERS

Commissioner Peterson reported on draft State source drinking water protection legislation being considered. Wherever public water systems have a source, this source must be protected, which is stated by the Federal Clean Water Act. Several Utah metropolitan water companies have proposed that rule making authority be given in State Law to the Division of Drinking Water, Department of Environmental Quality. This bill may come before the legislature at the next session.

USCC AND SCD ITEMS

UPDATE OF USCC/UACD/NRCS MOU

Mr. Jake Jacobson reminded the Commission that they are part of the USCC/UACD/NRCS Technical Assistance MOU. The Federal Farm Bill has a provision in it called the Technical Service Providers (TSP), formally called 3rd Party Vendors provision. Utah's core conservation partners are considering how the TSP opportunities impact our MOU.

SCD/ZONE WRITTEN ACTIVITY REPORTS – *SCC's Evaluation & Desire to Continue*

Mr. Jake Jacobson asked the Commission if they wish to continue the Zone/SCD Activity Reports during the next year. If so the suggested schedule for 2003 is January – Zone 3; March – Zone 5; June – Zone 4 and 6; September – Zone 2 and 7; and November – Zone 1. **A motion was made by Mr. Ralph Stahali to continue the reports; seconded by Randy Greenhalgh. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.**

MAJOR REVIEW TA GRANT POLICY & PROCEDURES FOR FY2003 PROGRAM CYCLE

Mr. Jake Jacobson, reviewed the Commission's TA grant policy. The source of TA funds come from the State General Fund, which is appropriated annually by the Utah Legislature. Each Zone received \$15,100.00 for FY 2003; the zone then decides how the funds will be disbursed to each district within the Zone. **A motion was made by Mr. Randy Greenhalgh to continue the TA Grant Policy as is; seconded by Dr. Phil Rasmussen. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

DETERMINE 2003 USCC MEETING SCHEDULE.

Mr. Jake Jacobson handed out a proposed 2003 USCC meeting schedule showing various options. After a discussion of the options the following was settled on. January 29, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., Salt Lake City; March 17, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m., St George; May 21, 1:30 - 4:30 p.m., Roosevelt; July 15, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., Salt Lake City; Sept as above; and, Nov 12, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m., St. George. In September the USCC meeting would be the day before the NPS conference, which date and location have not been set yet. **A motion was made to set the above as the 2003 USCC meeting schedule by Mr. Larry Johnson; Seconded by Mr. Bill Rasmussen. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

SCD REQUEST SERA OUT OF STATE SCC AUTHORIZATION – *NACD National Meeting.*

Mr. Jake Jacobson handed out a sheet showing which SCD Supervisors have applied to go to the NACD National Convention in Orlando Florida using limited about of State SCD Supervisor Expense Reimbursement Account (SERA) funds. The person going and amounts SERA funds to be used was determined through the USCC SERA out of state allocation procedure. **A motion was made to accept the SERA Out-of State Authorization as printed on the summary sheet by Mr. Ralph Staheli; Seconded by Mr. Stanley Wood. The motion passed Unanimously by voice vote.**

OTHER ITEMS

Commissioner Peterson announced that Marion Sorensen who had served for many years on the Nebo SCD and on the USCC had a severe heart attack the previous night and is in the Payson hospital.

CALENDAR OF FUTURE EVENTS

Next two SCC meetings: January 29 in Salt Lake City, March 17 at St. George
UACD Annual Convention: November 7-8, 2002 Provo Marriott Hotel
NACD Annual Meeting: February 9-12, 2003, Orlando Florida
Utah Water Users Workshop: March 18-19, 2003, St. George Dixie Center

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:32 PM.

Sherie Edginton, Soil Conservation Program Secretary

K.N. “Jake” Jacobson, USCC Administrative Officer